



West Virginia Economic Update

January 28, 2016

Summary

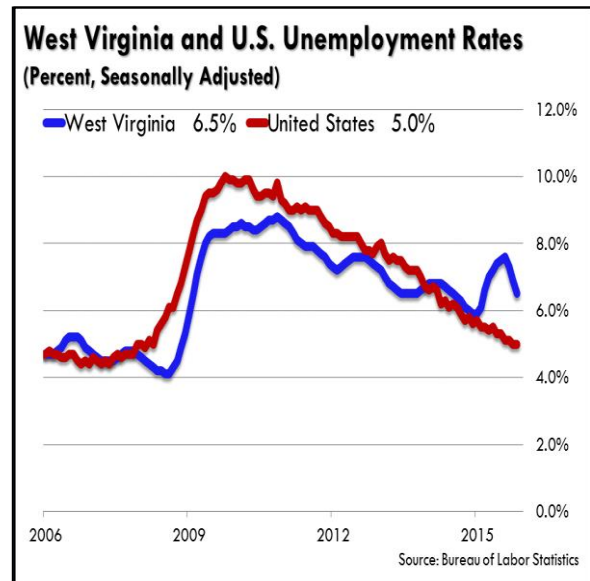
Nonfarm payroll employment in West Virginia increased by 2,400 jobs and the unemployment rate decreased to 5.6 percent in December according to data released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

West Virginia Unemployment Rate

During December, the unemployment rate in West Virginia decreased to 5.6 percent. The number of people counted as unemployed decreased by 1,800 in December to 49,300, while the labor force increased by 500 to 788,200.

The 10-year peak for the unemployment rate in West Virginia was 8.8 percent in November 2010. The series high for the unemployment rate in West Virginia occurred in February 1983 when the unemployment rate reached 18.8 percent. The 10-year low for the unemployment rate in West Virginia was 4.1 percent in August 2008. The series low for the unemployment rate in West Virginia occurred in August 2008 when the unemployment rate reached 4.1 percent. BLS began publishing the state unemployment rate series in 1976.

The national unemployment rate was unchanged at 5.0 percent in December. December's unemployment rate was 0.6 percentage point lower than a year earlier. The 10-year high for the national unemployment rate was 10.0 percent in October 2009. The 10-year low was 4.4 percent in May 2006.



West Virginia Payroll Employment

West Virginia nonfarm payrolls increased by 2,400 jobs, or 0.1 percent, on a seasonally adjusted basis during December. In the prior month, nonfarm payrolls increased by 700. Over the past 12 months nonfarm payrolls in West Virginia decreased by 11,800, or -1.55 percent. West Virginia nonfarm payroll employment has increased in 5 of the past 12 months.

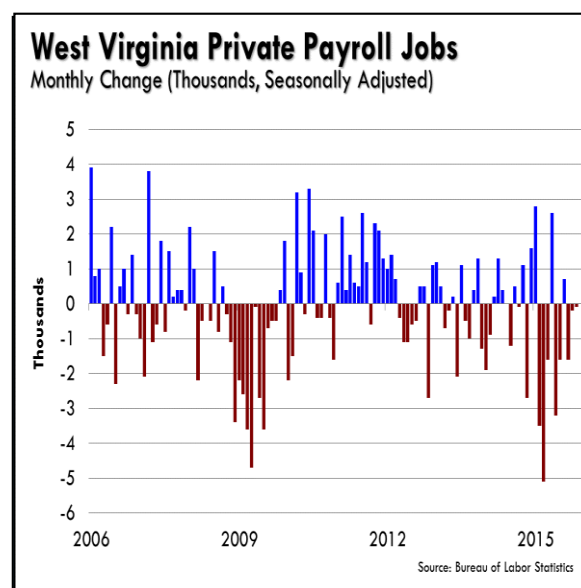
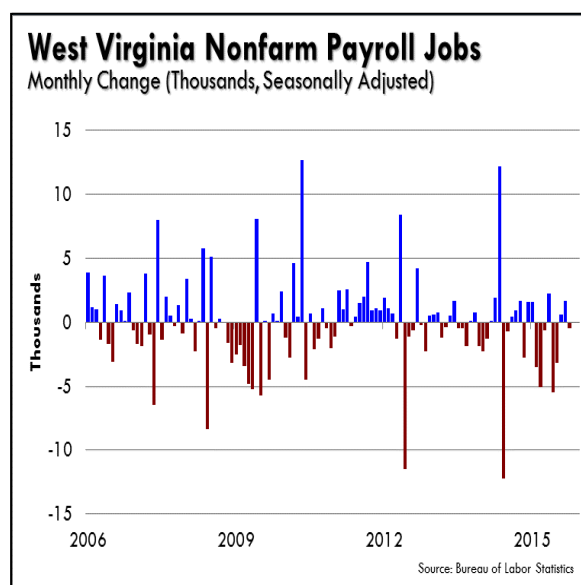
Nationally nonfarm payrolls rose by 292,000 in December, or 0.21 percent. Over the 12-month period ending in December 2015 nonfarm payrolls have increased by 2,650,000 jobs, or 1.9 percent.

During December, West Virginia private-sector payrolls increased by 600, or 0.1 percent. Private-sector payrolls remained unchanged in the prior month. Over the past 12 months, private-sector payrolls in West Virginia decreased by 12,900, or -2.11 percent. West Virginia private-sector payroll employment has increased in 4 of the past 12 months.

Nationally, private-sector payroll jobs increased by 275,000 in December, or 0.23 percent. Over the past 12 months, the nation's economy has added 2,551,000 jobs in the private sector, an increase of 2.1 percent.

During December, total government payroll employment in West Virginia increased by 100, or 0.07 percent. Federal government payroll employment remained unchanged. State government payroll employment remained unchanged, while local government payroll employment increased by 100, or 0.12 percent.

Over the past year, total government payroll employment decreased by 500, or -0.33 percent. State government payroll employment decreased by 400, or -0.81 percent. Local government payroll employment decreased by 300, or -0.37 percent.



The best performing sectors on a seasonally adjusted basis during December were Leisure and Hospitality (+400) and Information (+0). The poorest performing sectors during the month were Education and Health Services (-900) and Professional and Business Services (-800).

The best performing sectors during the last twelve months were Education and Health Services (+2,400) and Other Services (+300). The poorest performing sectors for the year were Leisure and Hospitality (-1,800) and Professional and Business Services (-1,200).

Other West Virginia Labor Force Statistics

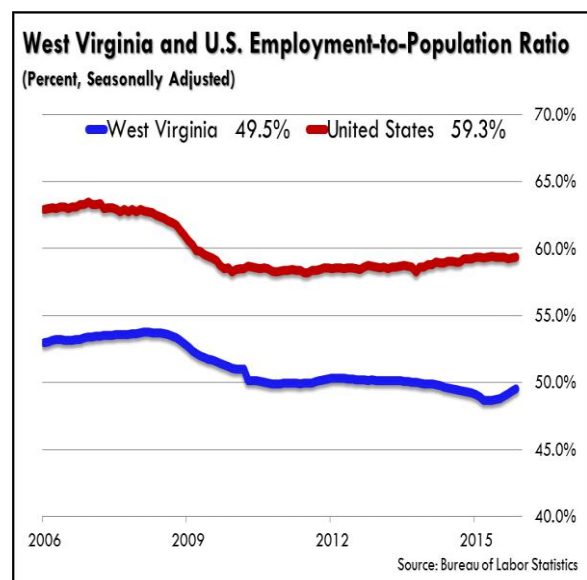
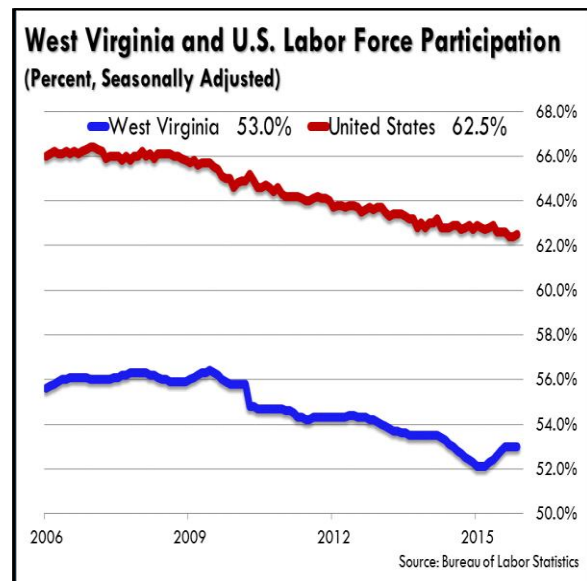
The labor force participation rate in West Virginia increased to 53 percent in December. The labor force participation rate in West Virginia is 0.7 percent higher from a year earlier. The labor force participation rate is the percentage of the civilian noninstitutionalized population age 16 and older who are employed or actively looking for work.

The 10-year high for the labor force participation rate in West Virginia was 56.4 percent in June 2009. The series high for the labor force participation rate in West Virginia occurred in March 2001, when the labor force participation rate hit 57 percent. The 10-year low for the labor force participation rate was 52.1 percent in March 2015.

The national labor force participation rate increased to 62.6 percent in December. That rate was 0.1 percentage point lower than a year earlier. At 62.6 percent, the labor force participation rate remains near its post-recession low.

The employment-to-population ratio, or the percentage of the West Virginia civilian noninstitutionalized population 16 years and older counted as employed, increased by 0.2 percent in December.

The 10-year high for the employment-to-population ratio in West Virginia was 53.8 percent in March 2008. The series high for the employment-to-population ratio in West Virginia occurred in March 2001 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 54.1



percent. The 10-year low for the employment-to-population ratio was 48.6 percent in April 2015. The series low for the employment-to-population ratio occurred in January 1983 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 42.2 percent.

The national employment-to-population ratio rose by 0.1 percentage point to 59.5 percent in December. That rate was 0.3 percentage point higher than a year earlier, and 0.1 percentage point higher than it was when the recession ended in June 2009. The all-time high for the employment-to-population ratio was 64.7 percent in April 2000. The 10-year high for the employment-to-population ratio was 63.4 percent in December 2006. The recent low occurred in October 2013 when the employment-to-population ratio dipped to 58.2 percent. The last time the employment-to-population posted a reading lower than 58.2 percent was July 1983.

State employment and unemployment data for January is scheduled for release on March 14th. The national employment situation report for January will be released on Friday, February 5th.